

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

Approved

September 12, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the Board of Health meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday September 12, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Leslie Mayer, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joseph Connelly was also present. Also in attendance was Conservation Commission liaison Nathaniel Stevens.

Speaking Members of the Public: See attached sign in sheet

Anticipated Speakers: Laura Kiesel, Karen Grossman, Jennifer Susse

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission chair, took formal attendance and welcomed members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Menotomy Bench Gift – Vincent Tempelman

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request for a honoree bench at Menotomy Rocks Park. The Commission reviewed the three recommended options and draft plaque language. The Commission was concerned with the accessibility of options 1 and 2. Ms. Mayer pointed out that there is a 5% requirement for accessible benches in the park and when you factored in all of the benches in the park that requirement would not be met. Ms. Mayer also stated that the Commission's goal was for best practice when it comes to accessibility not ADA minimums.

The Commission agreed and reviewed the plaque language. Ms. Lasker motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0. Ms. Carrier asked if the Historical Commission was consulted and the FOMRP notified. Mr. Connelly stated that the FOMRP were informed but since nothing was being removed from the park he did not notify the Historical Commission. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to notify Ms. Robinson of the Commission's approved vote.

Friends of Spy Pond Signage for Revegetation Area Request

Ms. Grossman reviewed the request for placing signage in the newly maintained and vegetated plant beds at Spy Pond Park. Ms. Grossman reviewed the sign size, language, material, and recommended locations. Ms. Mayer and the Commission discussed the difference between permanent signage and temporary signage. Mr. Connelly recommended a temporary signage plan to be reviewed in the spring of 2024.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve two temporary signs at the proposed locations and for a review to occur during the spring of 2024. This motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved, 5-0.

MBTA Communities Presentation –Jennifer Susse

Ms. Susse reviewed her presentation with the Commission regarding the MBTA Communities Act. The presentation included: the other communities involved and reasons for the efforts including equitable sustainability, educational inequities and health care disparities, racial justice and income inequality. Ms. Susse reviewed the history of housing in Arlington and the new MBTA Communities requirements. The Commission and Ms. Susse discussed the capacity number and the current proposal. Ms. Canniff asked if there were any

underground parking restrictions and Ms. Mayer asked if these recommended areas had any impact on open space zoned districts. Ms. Susse responded that there were no parking restrictions and it did not impact any open space land.

The Commission thanked Ms. Susse for her dedication to this effort and sharing the information with the Commission.

Signage for MK the Eagle Memorial and Rodenticide Use

Ms. Kiesel participated via zoom and begin her presentation to memorialize MK the eagle who passed away from poisoning. Ms. Kiesel stated that her goal was not only to honor MK but also educate the public on the dangers of rodenticides. Ms. Kiesel stated her reasoning for choosing Spy Pond is that it was where MK would hunt and it was a public space where the message could be widely seen.

Ms. Mayer stated that some of this educational information would not only benefit the Spy Pond area but all of the parks and could be appropriately be placed on the park bulletin boards.

The Commission discussed the temporary versus permanent nature of signage. Ms. Mayer and Ms. Rothenberg stated that the message and memorial could be separated and may be a nice community public art project.

Ms. Lasker stated that we don't allow memorializing humans in our parks and wanted consistency but agreed with the educational component. Ms. Canniff stated that the overall issue of the town's rat problems needed to be addressed by the town and that message should also be included in the educational component.

Mr. Connelly commented that any messaging should come from the appropriate department, in this case being the Board of Health. Mr. Connelly further stated Recreation could help facilitate the message but did not set public health policy.

Mr. Connelly will work with Ms. Kiesel on developing both an educational message that could be displayed on our bulletin boards and also set up a plan for a potential public art component similar to the "Penney the Swan" sculpture.

Spy Pond Portable Restroom Placement

This discussion was tabled.

Kelly Foundation and Recreation Cosponsorship Event

Mr. Connelly reviewed the details of the 10/29 event with the Commission.

Comments and Items for Future Meeting

Permitting events with alcohol on property under jurisdiction of the Park Commission.

Correspondence Received

Mr. Connelly stated that there was no correspondence and the correspondence on the agenda was an error.

Approval of Minutes:

The Commission tabled their 8/29 minutes. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Mayer, and approved 4-0-1 with Ms. Canniff abstaining.

New Business:

Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that the special application for CPA funding for the Menotomy Playground was not successful as the cut off for a warrant article submission was missed. The Commission discussed the impacts this may have on FY25 requests.

Public Comment:

Laura Notman – Discussed the importance of the education of the dangers of rodenticides
Liz Reisberg –Commented on the work by Elaine Crowder in educating the community
Elaine Crowder – Discussed an upcoming forum on this issue and appropriate education

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 8:50pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly.